

Amendments to the Drawings

Applicants wish to revise Figure 1 of the application by removing reference character 38 and its associated lead line. Applicants direct the Examiner to the attached Replacement Sheet that includes such changes.

Remarks

The Office Action objected to the drawings and rejected claims under 35 USC § 103. Applicants modified the drawings (see attached Replacement Sheet) and amended claims 1 and 19 in this paper. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections. An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this Amendment as a separate paper.

Election of Species

At least independent claims 1 and 19 remain generic to all of the Species described in the Office Action dated July 16, 1999.

Drawing Objections

The Office Action objected to the drawings for containing a reference character that does not appear in the specification. Applicants removed the offending reference character 38 from Figure 1, and its associated lead line. Applicants provide a Replacement Sheet as an attachment to this paper. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-6 and 19-23 under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over European Patent Application EP 0 710 618 A2 (hereinafter “Aulanko”) in view of U.S. Patent number 1,477,886 (hereinafter “Lewis”).

In light of the Examiner's comments in the Office Action (*see* Paragraph 34, p. 7), Applicants believe it is necessary to modify independent claims 1 and 19 to clarify further the relative positions of the drive motor and drive sheave. Claims 1 and 19 now recite that the drive sheave has "an axis of rotation parallel to the sidewall" and is positioned "from the drive motor along the sidewall and the axis of rotation." Support for this feature, for example, appears in Figure 1.

Aulanko fails to disclose or to suggest such an arrangement. The axis of rotation of the sheave (7) of Aulanko is perpendicular to the sidewall of the hoistway. *See* Figure 1 of Aulanko. Any modification of Aulanko in this manner would render the reference unsuitable for its intended purpose. The machine of Aulanko (since it is generally flat, but large in radius) would no longer achieve the stated advantage of being "located in a lateral part of the shaft." Paragraph 6, sixth bullet point, of Aulanko. The machine would extend into the vertical space occupied by the elevator car, and possibly conflict with the elevator car. Lewis and the remaining art of record also fail to overcome the shortcomings of Aulanko. In light of the foregoing, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

The Office Action rejected claim 8 under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over Aulanko in view of Lewis, further in view of U.S. Patent number 5,469,937 (hereinafter "Hakala"). As discussed above, Aulanko and Lewis fail to disclose or to suggest all of the features of independent claims 1 and 19. For at least this reason, the rejection of dependent claim 8 must be withdrawn. Hakala and the remaining art of record fail to overcome the shortcomings of Aulanko and Lewis. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

Applicants assert that the present application has overcome all of the rejections in the Office Action and is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejections, and provide a notice of allowability in the next communication.

Applicants do not believe any fees are due in connection with this Amendment. Nevertheless, Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees that may be due under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 or 17 and to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account Number 15-0750, Order Number OT-4328.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAMS ET AL.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Hamilla", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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